

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ/SCSA

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S E C R E T SANTIAGO 6807

FOR LTG MCAULIFFE FROM POPPER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, MASS

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY GROUP, CHILE

REFS: (A) SANTIAGO 6510 (B) 092100Z JUL 76

1. THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF 9 JULY. MY THOUGHT IS THAT THE SECTION 515 AMENDMENTS TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT CONCERNING MILITARY GROUPS REQUIRE THE JCS AND DOD TO DEVELOP A POSITION ON THE ELIMINATION/REDUCTION OF MAAG'S IN LATIN AMERICA. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERNS IN THIS REGARD AND LOOK FORWARD TO CONSULTING WITH YOU ON JCS AND DOD VIEWS ONCE THEY ARE CRYSTALLIZED.

2. MEANTIME, I FEEL THAT I HAVE A DUAL RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING MILGP CHILE:

A) FIRST, AS YOU KNOW, UNDER THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT SECSTATE IS LIKEWISE DEVELOPING A POSITION ON THE ELIMINATION OR REDUCTION OF MILGP'S/MAAG'S IN LATIN AMERICA AND WORLDWIDE. MY VIEWS ON THE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS MISSION WERE CONTAINED IN SANTIAGO 6510 AND OUR EARLIER SANTIAGO 4701. IN EFFECT, I BELIEVE THAT A THREE-PERSON MILGP IS BETTER THAN NONE AT ALL, THAT A SIX-PERSON MILGP WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CARRY THE CURRENT AND PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED WORKLOAD, BUT THAT IT

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WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO JUSTIFY A LARGER MILGP UNDER

PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

B) I HAVE ALSO APPROACHED THIS SUBJECT FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. UNDER SECTION 12-16, P.L. 93-475 I, LIKE OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION, AM REQUIRED TO EVALUATE THE STAFFING PATTERNS OF ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR EMBASSY. I ANTICIPATE THAT MY CONCLUSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE REGARDING THE MILGP, WILL BE CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON BY THE INTER-AGENCY SENIOR MANAGEMENT REVIEW GROUP OR THE UNDER SECRETARIES' COMMITTEE. MY RECOMMENDATION IN THIS REGARD IS THAT A SIX-PERSON MILGP COULD MOST EFFICIENTLY ACCOMPLISH A WORKLOAD REDUCED BY LEGISLATION ELIMINATING FURTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SALES. THIS RECOMMENDATION WILL, OF COURSE, BE CONSIDERED IN THE CONTEXT OF YOUR OWN AND THAT OF THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, IN RELATION TO BROADER DETERMINATIONS FOR THE HEMISPHERE AS A WHOLE.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PERSONNEL ACTIONS, THE MILGP COMMANDER'S VIEWS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FACTORED INTO MY RECOMMENDATIONS AS OUTLINED IN SANTIAGO 6510. I SEE NO IMMEDIATE STAFFING PROBLEMS, SINCE COLONEL GEORGE, DEPARTING IN JULY, WILL NOT BE REPLACED, AND THE IRPORT TERMINAL NCO, DEPARTING IN AUGUST, WILL LIKEWISE NOT BE REPLACED, SINCE HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WILL BE ASSUMED BY BRANIFF ON A CONTRACT BASIS.

4. THE CRUNCH WILL COME IN DECEMBER 1976. AT THAT TIME, BASED ON MY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT WILL BE NEEDED HERE I WOULD CONTEMPLATE THE EARLY DEPARTURE OF SEVEN MILGP PERSONS. THIS IS APPARENTLY THE BEST TIME OF YEAR FOR TRANSFERS IN ORDER TO KEEP PERSONNEL TURBULANCE AT A MINIMUM. AND IT FITS IN WELL WITH YOUR SUGGESTION OF "EARLY DEPARTURE" FOR PERSONS SCHEDULED FOR ROTATION IN 1977. AS I SEE IT, FAILURE TO ACT AT THAT TIME WOULD RESULT IN GROSS OVERSTAFFING HERE. BUT IF THERE IS DISAGREEMENT ON THIS POINT, WE SHOULD PROCEED PROMPTLY TO IRON IT OUT OR TO OBTAIN A WASHINGTON DECISION. THEREAFTER, WE WOULD HAVE TO ADVISE THE GOC.

6. FOR THE MOMENT, I DO NOT CONSIDER IT LIKELY THAT THE GOC WILL PRECIPITATE THE ABOLITION OF OR A REDUCTION IN THE MILGP. BUT IF IT DID SO, WE WOULD OF COURSE RESPOND IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE.

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7. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I HAVE REACHED MY CONCLUSIONS ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND WITH REAL REGRET. AS LONG AS A CONTINUED, SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE THREE MILITARY SERVICES IN CHILE SEEMED IN ANY WAY LIKELY TO CONTINUE OR SOON TO BE RESTORED, I REFRAINED FROM CALLING ATTENTION TO THE DECREASED ACTIVITY OF THE MILGP HERE. WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW LAW, I CAN NO LONGER DO SO.

8. WARM REGARDS.
POPPER

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